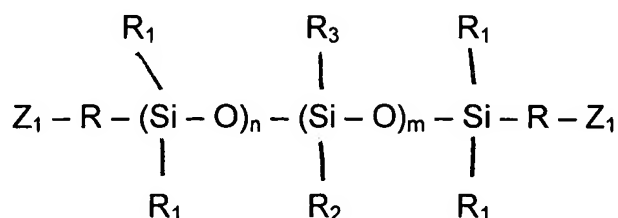


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims have been amended as indicated below wherein added words are underlined and deleted words are {braced}.

Claims 1-11 (Withdrawn)

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A polymeric composition produced through the copolymerization of one or more prepolymers produced from one or more prepolymer precursors {of claim 1}



wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C₁₋₁₀
hydrocarbon substituents; the R₁ groups may be the same or different
C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents; the R₂ groups may be the same or different

selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₀ alkyl substituents, C₁₋₁₀ fluoroalkyl substituents, and C₂₋₂₀ alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R₃ groups may be the same or different C₆₋₃₀ aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R₁, R₂ and R₃ groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z₁ groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and –NH₂, with one or more aromatic monomers, alkyl monomers, hydrophilic monomers or a combination thereof.

Claim 13 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 12 wherein said one or more aromatic monomers are selected from the group consisting of acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide and methacrylamide, each with aromatic substituents.

Claim 14 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 12 wherein said one or more aromatic monomers are selected from the group consisting of phenyl acrylate, phenyl(meth)acrylate, phenyl acrylamide, benzyl acrylate, benzyl acrylamide, phenylethylacrylate, phenyl(meth)acrylamide, phenylethyl(meth)acrylate and benzyl(meth)acrylate.

Claim 15 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 12 wherein said one or more alkyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl methacrylate, C₅₋₂₀ acrylamide and C₅₋₂₀ methacrylamide.

Claim 16 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 12 wherein said one or more alkyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, n-hexyl methacrylate, n-octyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate and n-octyl acrylamide.

Claim 17 (Original): The polymeric composition of claim 12 wherein said one or more hydrophilic monomers are selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), glycerol methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, acrylamide, n-methyl acrylamide, acrylic acid and (meth)acrylic acid.

Claim 18 (Original): A method of producing the polymeric composition of claim 12 useful in the manufacture of ophthalmic devices comprising:
reacting one or more polysiloxane prepolymers with one or more aromatic monomers, an alkyl monomers or hydrophilic monomers.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more aromatic monomers are selected from the group consisting of acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide and methacrylamide, each with aromatic substituents.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more aromatic monomers are selected from the group consisting of phenyl acrylate, phenyl(meth)acrylate, phenyl acrylamide, benzyl acrylate, benzyl acrylamide, phenylethylacrylate, phenyl(meth)acrylamide, phenylethyl(meth)acrylate and benzyl(meth)acrylate.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more alkyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, C₁₋₂₀ alkyl methacrylate, C₅₋₂₀ acrylamide and C₅₋₂₀ methacrylamide.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more alkyl monomers are selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, n-hexyl methacrylate, n-octyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate and n-octyl acrylamide.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein said one or more hydrophilic monomers are selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), glycerol methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, acrylamide, n-methyl acrylamide, acrylic acid and (meth)acrylic acid.

Claims 24–29 (Withdrawn)

Should there be any questions regarding this preliminary amendment,
please feel free to contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita D. Vacca", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rita D. Vacca
Reg. No. 33,624

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